

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OPR-02 A-01 SS-15 SSO-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00
OC-06 CCO-00 PM-04 OCL-00 USIE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01
SY-05 SP-02 FS-01 PRS-01 PC-01 AID-05 /082 W
-----271652Z 014424 /47

Z 261600Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN FLASH
CINCUSNAVEUR FLASH
SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 0000
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA FLASH
JCS WASHDC FLASH
OSD WASHDC FLASH
AMEMBASSY ATHENS FLASH
NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0389

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:AEMR
SUBJECT: ASMARA SITREP AS OF 1430Z

1. APRIL 27 AIRLIFT: CONVOY FROM CONGEN TO TRACT ECHO TO AIRPORT
WAS CONDUCTED WITH DISCIPLINE AND DISPATCH AND THE UTMOST
COOPERATION OF THE EPMG. FIRST MAC C-141 ARRIVED 1150 LOCAL AND
BEGAN BREAKING DOWN CARGO FOR PALLETIZING. PRIORITY WAS GIVEN TO
USG PROPERTY FROM CONGEN AND KAGNEW. DEPARTING USG PERSONNEL
ASSISTED IN LOADING OF AIRCRAFT. THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION
ABOUT HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE TO BE EVACUATED AND WHETHER ALL USG
PERSONNEL WERE TO DEPART TODAY. CARGO WAS HANDLED QUICKLY. SECOND
MAC AIRCRAFT ARRIVED AT 1415 LOCAL AND A VEHICLE WAS DISPATCHED
FROM ECHO TO LOAD THREE PALLETIZED HOUSEHOLD GOODS CONTAINERS,
THREE ADDITIONAL CONTAINERS WERE LEFT AT ONE SIDE OF THE RUNWAY.
FIRST AIRCRAFT COMPLETED LOADING CARGO, EMBARKED PASSENGERS AND
DEPARTED AT 1522 LOCAL. CARGO HANDLERS THEN SHIFTED TO SECOND
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AIRCRAFT AND LOADED THREE PALLETS OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND CONGEN'S
NEW OFFICIAL VEHICLE. SECOND AIRCRAFT DEPARTED AT 1642 LOCAL.
AT NO TIME DID EPMG OFFICIALS CAUSE PROBLEMS, AND SECURITY WAS
ALERT AND PLENTIFUL.

2. TRACT BRAVO: AFTER INITIAL AMENITIES AT PLANESIDE OIC NAVCOMM-
UNIT DEPARTED AIRPORT TO RENDESVOUS WITH DETAIL AT ECHO TO PROCEED

TO BRAVO TO BEGIN DISMANTLING 21 CATEGORIES OF EQUIPMENT DESIGNATED BY CINCUSNAVEUR. ON ARRIVAL AT BRAVO THEY WERE HALTED BY EPMG OFFICER WHO SAID THEY COULD REMOVE NOTHING FROM THE TRACT. I WAS CONTACTED AND TELEPHONED ATO MENGESHA, CHAIRMAN EPMG CLOSURE COMMITTEE, REQUESTING LIFTING THIS BAN. MENGESHA SUMMONED ME TO HIS OFFICE WITH ABRAHAM OF THE LOCAL MOFA. ON ARRIVAL HE SAID FORMALLY THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO PERMIT REMOVAL OF THE 21 CATEGORIES OF EQUIPMENT, BUT ASKED THAT OIC NOT BEGIN UNTIL 1500 LOCAL WHEN THE LUNCH HOUR ENDED. THIS WAS AGREED AND A REQUEST WAS MADE TO PERMIT NCU DETAIL TO WORK DAWN TO DUSK APRIL 28. THIS WAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE. THIS HIATUS WAS USED TO BRING ONE USAF HANDLER FROM AIRPORT TO CONFER WITH OIC ON PACKING OF EQUIPMENT TO BE REMOVED FROM BRAVO. DURING THIS PERIOD, CONGEN HAS FORWARDED REQUEST THAT FIVE HANDLERS AND FORKLIFT BE PERMITTED TO REMAIN IN ASMARA TO PACK EQUIPMENT AND FACILITATE APRIL 29 AIRLIFT. MENGESHA CONCURRED AND 21ST AIRFORCE AGREED. FOLLOWING DEPARTURE SECOND MAC AIRCRAFT FIVE HANDLERS AND FORKLIFT PROCEEDED TO BRAVO. FORKLIFT HAD MECHANICAL PROBLEM (ASMARA 0388 DTG 271550Z) BUT EXTENSIVE DISMANTLING WAS ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE DEPARTING BRAVO AT 1730 LOCAL.

3. PROBLEMS: (A) TWO CISCO EMPLOYEES IN MASSAWA REMAIN STUCK AS THIS AFTERNOON'S FLIGHT WAS ABORTED. THIS IS FOURTH DAY EPMG HAS FAILED TO TRANSPORT BLAND AND SPIRES TO ASMARA DESPITE FIRM APPEALS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS BOTH HERE AND IN ADDIS. IF THEY HAVE NOT RETURNED AND THERE IS NO PROSPECTS BY 1400 LOCAL 1100Z) TOMORROW, DECISION HAS TO BE MADE WHETHER TO USE ALTERNATE USG TRANSPORTATION OR TO ENTRUST THEM TO EPMG'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAVEL TO ADDIS OR EXPATRIATION. (B) MOFA AND IMMIGRATION
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AUTHORITIES STILL STONEWALLING ON ISSUANCE TRAVEL DOCUMENT FOR BELAINESH FRANZ, WIFE OF CISCO EMPLOYEE. I WILL MAKE THIS PRIORITY FOR TOMORROW, BUT IF I DO NOT SUCCEED I AM DETERMINED TO PUT HER ABOARD APRIL 29 MAC AIRCRAFT EVEN WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION.

4. ATMOSPHERE: RELATIONS WITH EPMG OFFICIALS REMAIN CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE, BUT PROBLEMS ARISE WHEN THEY ARE UNAVAILABLE, WHICH IS FREQUENT. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THEY ARE DUCKING US, PARTLY BECAUSE THEY ARE ALMOST AS EXHAUSTED WITH THIS OPERATION AS WE ARE.
WAUCHOPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ASMARA00389
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770147-0188
Format: TEL
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770421/aaaaardp.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 481c969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2699530
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASMARA SITREP AS OF 1430Z
TAGS: AEMR
To: CINCEUR CINCUSNAVEUR
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/481c969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009